



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2021-0075; Airspace Docket No. 21-ASO-2]

RIN 2120-AA66

Amendment of Class E Airspace; Muscle Shoals, AL

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action amends Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface in Muscle Shoals, AL, due to the decommissioning of the Muscle Shoals Very High Frequency Omni-Directional Radio Range Tactical Air Navigation Aid (VORTAC), and cancellation of the associated approach at Northwest Alabama Regional Airport. This action also updates the airport name under the Class E surface airspace and makes an editorial change replacing the term Airport/Facility Directory with the term Chart Supplement in the legal descriptions of associated Class E airspace. Controlled airspace is necessary for the safety and management of instrument flight rules (IFR) operations in the area.

DATES: Effective 0901 UTC, December 2, 2021. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action

under 1 CFR part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order 7400.11 and publication of conforming amendments.

ADDRESSES: FAA Order 7400.11E, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/. For further information, you can contact the Airspace Policy Group, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20591; Telephone: (202) 267-8783. The Order is also available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of FAA Order 7400.11E at NARA, email fr.inspection@nara.gov or go to <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Fornito, Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, 1701 Columbia Ave., College Park, GA 30337; Telephone (404) 305-6364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority for this Rulemaking

The FAA's authority to issue rule regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106,

describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency's authority. This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority as it amends Class E airspace at Northwest Alabama Regional Airport, Muscle Shoals, AL.

History

The FAA published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the *Federal Register* (86 FR 27329, May 20, 2021) for Docket No. FAA-2021-0075 to amend Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Northwest Alabama Regional Airport, Muscle Shoals, AL. Also, the FAA proposed to update the airport name and replace the outdated term Airport/Facility Directory with the term Chart Supplement in the associated Class E airspace legal description for this airport.

Interested parties were invited to participate in this rulemaking effort by submitting written comments on the proposal to the FAA. One comment was received supporting the airspace change.

Class E airspace designations are published in Paragraphs 6002 and 6005, respectively, of FAA Order 7400.11E, dated July 21, 2020, and effective September 15, 2020, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designations listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order.

Availability and Summary of Documents for Incorporation by Reference

This document amends FAA Order 7400.11E, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated July 21, 2020, and effective September 15, 2020. FAA Order 7400.11E is publicly available as listed in the ADDRESSES section of this document. FAA Order 7400.11E lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic routes, and reporting points.

The Rule

The FAA is amending 14 CFR part 71 by amending Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Northwest Alabama Regional Airport, Muscle Shoals, AL, as the Muscle Shoals VORTAC has been decommissioned, and associated approaches cancelled. The radius of the airport is decreased from 7 miles to 6.8 miles, adding a 12.5-mile extension to

the east and an 8.1-mile extension to the south. Also, the FAA updates the airport name to Northwest Alabama Regional Airport, (formerly Muscle Shoals Regional Airport) in both the Class E surface airspace and Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface. In addition, the FAA is replacing the outdated term Airport/Facility Directory with the term Chart Supplement in the associated Class E airspace legal description for this airport.

These changes are necessary for continued safety and management of IFR operations in the area.

FAA Order 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, is published yearly and effective on September 15.

Regulatory Notices and Analyses

The FAA has determined that this regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore: (1) is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a “significant rule” under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is minimal. Since this is a

routine matter that only affects air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, does not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Environmental Review

The FAA has determined that this action qualifies for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, "Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures," paragraph 5-6.5a. This airspace action is not expected to cause any potentially significant environmental impacts, and no extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant preparation of an environmental assessment.

Lists of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air)

Adoption of the Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71 --DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS;

AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 106(g); 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 389

§71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of FAA Order 7400.11E, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated July 21, 2020, and effective September 15, 2020, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6002. Class E Surface Airspace.

* * * * *

ASO AL E2 Muscle Shoals, AL [Amended]

Northwest Alabama Regional Airport, AL
(lat. 34°44'43"N., long. 87°36'37"W.)

That airspace extending upward from the surface within a 4.2-mile radius of Northwest Alabama Regional Airport. This Class E airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The effective date and time will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

Paragraph 6005. Class E Airspace Areas Extending Upward from 700 feet or More Above the Surface of the Earth.

* * * * *

ASO AL E5 Muscle Shoals, AL [Amended]

Northwest Alabama Regional Airport, AL
(lat. 34°44'43"N., long. 87°36'37"W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface within a 6.8-mile radius of Northwest Alabama Regional Airport, and within 3.7-miles each side of the 114° bearing from the

airport, extending from the 6.8-mile radius to 12.5-miles east of the airport, and within 1.2-miles each side of the 181° bearing from the airport, extending from the 6.8-mile radius to 8.1-miles south of the airport.

Issued in College Park, Georgia, on **August 23, 2021**.

MATTHEW N. CATHCART,
Manager, Airspace & Procedures Team North,
Eastern Service Center, Air Traffic Organization

[FR Doc. 2021-18422 Filed: 8/26/2021 8:45 am; Publication Date: 8/27/2021]